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Message Text

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PAGE 01 KARACH 01809 041333Z

42
ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 OMB-01 EUR-25 DRC-01 /133 W
---------- 020148
R 041022Z SEP 74
FM AMCONSUL KARACHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8337
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMCONSUL LAHORE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMCONSUL PESHAWAR

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PK
SUBJECT: BHUTTO'S BUSY WEEK IN KARACHI

SUMMARY: DURING A SIX-DAY VISIT TO KARACHI AND SIND, PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO DEFENDED THE MAINTENANCE OF THE NATIONAL STATE OF EMERGENCY, CITING INTERNAL SUBVERSION AND FOREIGN DANGERS. HE FULFILLED NUMEROUS PROTOCOL AND POLITICAL OBLIGATIONS, INCLUDING HOSTING A DINNER FOR THE VISITING TOGO PRESIDENT. DESPITE RUMORS THAT BHUTTO MIGHT MAKE AN "AIR DASH" WESTWARD TO MEDIATE GREEK-TURKISH DIFFERENCES, HE STAYED IN TOWN TO PRESIDE OVER A 2-DAY GOVERNORS' CONFERENCE. END SUMMARY.

1. THE MOST NOTEWORTHY EVENT IN BHUTTO'S CROWDED SCHEDULE WAS HIS AUGUST 30 ADDRESS TO THE SIND AND BALUCHISTAN HIGH COURT BAR ASSOCIATION. HE WAS PRECEDED AT THE PODIUM BY THE ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT, WHO CONGRATULATED BHUTTO ON HIS ACHIEVEMENTS (THE CONSTITUTION, RESTORATION OF FUNDA-
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PAGE 02 KARACH 01809 041333Z

MENTAL RIGHTS, THE ISLAMIC SUMMIT) BUT CRITICIZED THE MAIN-

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

TENANCE OF THE STATE OF EMERGENCY AND QUESTIONED THE IMPARTIALITY OF SOME ELECTION COMMISSION OFFICERS AND THE VALIDITY OF SOME RULING PARTY POLL VICTORIES. READING FROM A PREPARED ADDRESS, BHUTTO PLEDGED THAT THE STATE OF EMERGENCY (PROVIDING FOR SUMMARY ARREST AND DETENTION UNDER THE DEFENCE OF PAKISTAN RULES) WOULD NOT BE CONTINUED "ONE MOMENT MORE THAN IS NECESSARY". HE CITED "TROUBLE IN BALUCHISTAN AND CONSIDERABLE SUBVERSION" IN THE NWFP, AS WELL AS THE "RELIGIOUS CRISIS" (AHMADIYA ISSUE) AS JUSTIFYING THE CONTINUED STATE OF EMERGENCY. BHUTTO MENTIONED IN ADDITION THAT "ONE PARTICULAR NEIGHBOR" (AFGHANISTAN) IS "LAYING CLAIM TO TWO OF OUR PROVINCES". IN PASSING, BHUTTO POINTED OUT THAT INDIA HAD BEEN GOVERNED UNDER A STATE OF EMERGENCY CONTINUOUSLY SINCE 1962. HE BOASTED THAT TROUBLED BALUCHISTAN ENJOYED AUTONOMY UNDER A RESPONSIBLE PROVINCIAL MINISTRY, WHILE VARIOUS STATES IN "DEMOCRATIC" INDIA WERE BEING ADMINISTERED FROM NEW DELHI UNDER "PRESIDENT'S RULE". BHUTTO ARGUED THAT THERE WAS NO GROUND FOR COMPLAINT THAT ONE PARTY WAS STEADILY SUCCESSFUL AT THE POLLS; THE RULING PPP "ENJOYS POPULAR SUPPORT". HE PROMISED TO CHECK COMPLAINTS OF ABUSES BY ELECTION COMMISSION OFFICIALS.

2. DESPITE WIDESPREAD SPECULATION THAT BHUTTO WOULD MAKE AN "AIR DASH" TO ANKARA AND ATHENS TO MEDIATE BETWEEN THOSE COUNTRIES, HE STAYED IN TOWN AND WENT THROUGH WITH HIS SCHEDULE. HE GAVE A DINNER SEPTEMBER 1 FOR TOGO PRESIDENT GNASSINGBE EYADEMA, EN ROUTE TO PEKING. BHUTTO CONGRATULATED EYADEMA ON HIS RELENTLESS CAMPAIGN AGAINST REACTIONARY FORCES, EVEN AT THE RISK OF HIS LIFE; EYADEMA THANKED HIM FOR PAKISTAN'S SUPPORT AND SAID AFRICANS WOULD TAKE UP ARMS, IF NECESSARY, TO END IMPERALIST DOMINATION.

3. WHEN NOT MEETING PARTY AND OTHER DELEGATIONS, BHUTTO FOUND TIME TO STOP IN SUKKUR TO PAY HIS RESPECTS TO THE MEMORY OF FORMER MINISTER ABDUS SATTAR PIRZADA; INSPECT PAKISTAN INTERNATIONAL AIRWAYS INSTALLATIONS; AND ATTEND THE WEDDING OF THE SON OF PRESIDENT FAZAL ELAHI CHAUDHRY. BHUTTO PRESIDED OVER THE SEPTEMBER 2-3 GOVERNORS' CONFERENCE, WHICH COVERED LAW AND ORDER THE FIRST DAY AND DEVELOPMENT THE NEXT. NO DECISIONS WERE ANNOUNCED. BHUTTO
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RETURNED TO ISLAMABAD SEPTEMBER 3.

4. COMMENT: THE ANNUAL BAR ASSOCIATION MEETING OFFERED BHUTTO AN OBVIOUS OPPORTUNITY TO RESPOND TO GRIEVANCES VOICED BY ARTICULATE PAKISTANIS. THE ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S CRITICISM AND BHUTTO'S RESPONSE HAD A PRE-PLANNED, PRO-FORMA QUALITY, MUCH LIKE LAST FEBRUARY'S JURISTS' CONFERENCE TOUCHING ON SIMILAR SUBJECTS (KARACHI A-14).

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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WE DOUBT BHUTTO CONVINCED MANY OF HIS LISTENERS, BUT
HIS WILLINGNESS TO FACE AN INFLUENTIAL PROFESSIONAL GROUP
AND MAKE SOME ACCOUNTING FOR HIS ACTIONS INDICATES THAT
HE REALIZES THE LAWYERS' IMPORTANCE. FOR THE LARGER AUDIENCE
IN SIND, IT WAS A WEEK IN WHICH THE DRAMATIC BHUTTO STYLE
WAS CONSTANTLY ON DISPLAY. IT'S QUITE A SHOW. FROM WHERE
WE SIT IT SHOULD ENJOY A FAIRLY LONG RUN.
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